(c) if so, the details of Government's plan to make it attractive and operative and give it wide publicity?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tourism Department of Andaman & Nicobar Islands has identified 131 hectares of land so far for tourism promotion in various islands.

(c) With a view to attract domestic and foreign tourists to all tourist sites in the country including Andaman and Nicobar Islands, all tourism activities including publicity are being promoted through India tourism offices in India and abroad.

Tourist potential of NE region

757. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NE region has a great tourist potential;

(b) whether the NE States are now poised to welcome tourists; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to promote tourism in the NE region to boost their economy?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) NE Region has great tourism potential with abundance of natural beauty and bio-diversity. States in the region are well poised to cater to incoming tourists. Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned number of tourism projects to the NE States for development and promotion of tourism. 10 per cent of the Plan Allocation of the Department has been earmarked for development of tourism in the North-Eastern Region.

Heritage gates of Aurangabad and Ellora

758. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to renovate heritage gates of Aurangabad and Ajanta and Ellora; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Japanese Government has sanctioned funds for development of Ajanta-Ellora etc.; if so, the details of the project; and